

Laura Polanyi Striker Papers on Captain John Smith

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undated

Title Statement

Laura Polanyi Striker Papers on Captain John Smith Laura-Polanyi-Striker-Papers-on-Captain-John-Smith MS 00067

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00067

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/9143

Unit Date

undated

Language

English, Hungarian, and Latin.

Creator

Stricker, Laura Polanyi, 1882-1959

Extent

2.00 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Donation on behalf of the Laura Polanyi Striker Family, August 2016.

Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

Laura Polanyi Striker was an Austro-Hungarian historian, researcher and educator. She received a PhD in economic history from Budapest University, developed progressive pedagogical models for young learners, and was active in feminist and freemason societies. Striker came from a Jewish family of scholars, including economist and anthropologist Karl Polanyi and philosopher Michael Polanyi. Striker and her family immigrated to the United States during World War II.

In the mid-1940s, Striker joined American historian Bradford Smith's research project to write a new biography of Captain John Smith. Since Striker read Hungarian and Latin, she worked through non-English sources related to the many narratives about John Smith's experiences in Transylvania and Hungary. Striker's work addressed earlier scholarship by Hungarian-American historian Alfred Knopf, translated sources about John Smith, and in 1953 published her independent study, *Captain John Smith's Hungary and Transylvania*.

She married Sandor Striker in 1904 and had three children, including the designer Eva Striker Zeisel. Laura Polanyi Striker died in 1959.

For more on Striker's biography and career, see Lee Congdon's article, "The Hungarian Pocahontas: Laura Polanyi Striker," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, July 1978.

Scope and Contents

Research notes, drafts, and writings of Laura Polanyi Striker on Captain John Smith. Materials include correspondence, publications, newspaper clippings, reviews, books jackets and photographs related to her extensive research.

Late in her career, Striker wrote about Captain John Smith's Hungarian travels, including the 1957 introduction and translation of *The Life of John Smith, English Soldier*, a seventeenth-century text by Henry Wharton; 1953's *Captain John Smith's Hungary and Transylvania*; and 1958's *The Hungarian Historian*: Lewis L. Kropf.

This collection contains materials pertaining to Striker's scholarship from the mid-1940s through her death in 1959. It is arranged in the following series: Artifact, Correspondence, Photographs and Book Jackets, Research Notes, and Reviews.

Keywords

Virginia--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775

Virginia--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Historiography

Transylvania (Romania) -- History

Hungary -- History

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Artifact**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464839**Unit Date** 1956**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 1 (Folder)**Language** English**Extent** Approximately 2.5 x 4 inches**Scope and Contents**

Metal ornamental plaque of Captain John Smith for the 1957 Jamestown Festival. The commemorative plaque is light brown/cream with Smith's likeness in relief. It is copywritten to 1956, Virginia Metalcrafters. A cream thread is tied to a hanging hook on the back of the plaque.

Keywords

Jamestown Festival (1957)

Smith, John, 1580-1631

Series 2: Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464841**Unit Date** 1951-1964, and undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Features letters to and from Striker and publishers, editors, and other personal and professional correspondents. Some letters are written in Hungarian and remain untranslated.

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464842**Unit Date** 1951-1956**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 2 (Folder)**Language** English**Correspondence****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464843**Unit Date** 1957-1958**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 3 (Folder)**Language** English**Correspondence****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464844**Unit Date** 1959-1964**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 4 (Folder)**Language** English**Correspondence in Hungarian****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464845**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 5 (Folder)**Language** English

Correspondence, undated

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464846

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Language English

Series 3: Photographs and Book Jackets

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464847

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Language English

Extent Book jackets are in mylar folders to keep them from creasing and tearing.

Scope and Contents

Six photographs feature Polanyi, with a few images of her holding her published books on John Smith. There is also a signed portrait of Bradford Smith, the English professor and biographer of Captain John Smith of the Virginia colony, William Bradford of the Plymouth colony.

The two book jackets are from Bradford's 1953 book, Captain John Smith, published by J.B. Lippincott, and Polanyi's 1957 translation of Henry Wharton's text, The Life of John Smith.

Series 4: Research Notes

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464840

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Handwritten and typed research notes, including outlines, informal notes, and revisions from other readers including Striker's brother Karl Polanyi.

Notes have been arranged according to their original arrangement. Most materials are not sorted by title or research project.

1601-1602 Campaigns

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464817

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

The Affaire Smith

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464818

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

The Affaire Smith, Outline

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464838

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Language English

Captain John Smith's Veracity

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464848

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Language English

Copy of Henry Wharton Manuscript**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464849**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 12 (Folder)**Language** English**Draft Pages (1 of 5)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464850**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 13 (Folder)**Language** English**Draft Pages (2 of 5)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464851**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 14 (Folder)**Language** English**Draft Pages (3 of 5)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464852**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 15 (Folder)**Language** English**Draft Pages (4 of 5)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464853**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 16 (Folder)**Language** English**Draft Pages (5 of 5)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464854**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 17 (Folder)**Language** English**Draft with edits by Hans Zeisel****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464855**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Language** English**Early Draft****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464856**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 19 (Folder)**Language** English

Habsburgs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464857

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Language English

Hand-Drawn Map of Hungary

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464858

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 21 (Folder)

Language English

Historiography

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464859

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 22 (Folder)

Language English

Hungary and Transylvania

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464860

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 23 (Folder)

Language English

Illustrations, photocopies

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464861

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 24 (Folder)

Language English

Intro draft, Hungary and Transylvania

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464862

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 25 (Folder)

Language English

John Smith, Chapter 1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464863

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 26 (Folder)

Language English

John Smith in Hungary

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464864

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 27 (Folder)

Language English

Kropf

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464865

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 28 (Folder)

Language English

Kropf and Captain John Smith

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464866

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 29 (Folder)

Language English

Kropf Draft

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464867

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 30 (Folder)

Language English

Kropf Draft with edits

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464868

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 31 (Folder)

Language English

Military Research

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464869

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 32 (Folder)

Language English

Notes on Hungary and Transylvania

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464870

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 33 (Folder)

Language English

Part II

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464871

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 34 (Folder)

Language English

Remnants

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464872

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 35 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (1 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464873

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 36 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (3 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464875

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 38 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (4 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464876

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 39 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (5 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464877

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 40 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (6 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464879

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 41 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (7 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464880

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 42 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (8 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464881

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 43 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (9 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464882

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 44 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (10 of 21)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464883**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 45 (Folder)**Language** English**Research Notes (11 of 21)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464884**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 46 (Folder)**Language** English**Research Notes (12 of 21)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464885**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 47 (Folder)**Language** English**Research Notes (13 of 21)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464886**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 48 (Folder)**Language** English**Research Notes (14 of 21)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464887**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 49 (Folder)**Language** English**Research Notes (15 of 21)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464888**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 50 (Folder)**Language** English**Research Notes (16 of 21)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464889**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 51 (Folder)**Language** English**Research Notes (17 of 21)****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/464890**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 52 (Folder)**Language** English

Research Notes (18 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464891

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 53 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (19 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464892

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 54 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (20 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464893

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes (21 of 21)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464894

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes, veracity

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464895

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes, with comments

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464896

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes, miscellaneous

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464897

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes, index cards (1 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464898

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes, index cards (2 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464899

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes, index cards (3 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464900

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes, index cards (4 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464901

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Language English

Research Notes/Publications

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464902

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Language English

Stuhlweissenburg (Hungary) Photostat

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464903

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Language English

Wharton

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464904

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Language English

Wharton Materials (1 of 3)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464905

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Language English

Wharton Materials (2 of 3)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464906

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Language English

Wharton Materials (3 of 3)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464907

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Language English

Wharton translation, unknown translator

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464908

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Language English

Wingfield Materials

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464909

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Language English

Series 5: Reviews

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464915

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Language English

Extent Clippings are enclosed in plastic sleeves, with some pages flaking at the edges. Handle with care.

Scope and Contents

Reviews for Striker's work alongside critical response to Bradford Smith's biography of Captain John Smith. This series consists of newspaper clippings from The New York Times, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Chicago Tribune, among other national publications.

Reviews (1 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464910

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Language English

Reviews (2 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464911

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 19 (Folder)

Language English

Reviews (3 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464912

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Language English

Reviews (4 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464913

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 21 (Folder)

Language English

Hungarian Historical Society review, translated into English

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464914

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 22 (Folder)

Language English